

the original description of another. This would mean that workers could not base their idea of this species upon the original description, thus putting our system of nomenclature into an awkward position. Furthermore, it would prolong the present confusion over the name *Thamnophis sirtalis*. If the present proposal is followed, on the other hand, only the suppression of a single name is necessary, an action for which there is ample precedent.

SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPLICATION LAID BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE IN REGARD TO THE TRIVIAL NAME "SIRTALIS" LINNAEUS, 1758 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION "COLUBER SIRTALIS") (CLASS REPTILIA)

By KARL P. SCHMIDT

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and

ROGER CONANT

(Philadelphia Zoological Garden, Philadelphia, Pa.)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)433)

(Letter dated 23rd October, 1951)

Supplemental to our recommendation regarding stabilization of the name *Coluber sirtalis* for the common garter snake of North America, and at the suggestion of Dr. J. Chester Bradley, a member of the Commission, we add the following:—

We request the Commission, under their plenary powers if need be, to direct that the specific name *Coluber saurita* Linnaeus, 1766 shall apply to the form described by Blanchard, F. M. (1924, *Papers Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters*, 4 : 18) as the subspecies *sauritus* of *Thamnophis sauritus*. This is the sense of the several editions of the *Checklist of North American Amphibians and Reptiles* by Leonhard Stejneger and Thomas Barbour, 1933 (Third edition) : 124.